

State of New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505 -- 6303

COPY



I received Public Notice No. 05-16 today. My comment regarding your notice will address broader issues than your request. Before the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant opened, when there was much public discussion and comment, the government of the State of New Mexico and the US Federal Government joined hands in ignoring strong public opinion by a majority of New Mexicans who opposed to the opening of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. The process that ensued to ensure the opening of the plant was hardly a democratic process. Simply, the people of New Mexico were ignored and bypassed when the land that was proposed as the site for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant was transferred from the BLM, public land and therefore owned by the citizens of the United States, to the Department of Energy, without citizen input and bypassing any truly democratic process.

Therefore, I have no faith that your department will honor the interests of the citizens of New Mexico. My belief is that this process of getting public opinion is simply to placate civilians by creating the guise of a democratic process.

If your department was honest in seeking out the opinions of New Mexicans regarding the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, I suggest that you do a survey including the following questions:

1. Do you support the transport of out-of-state hazardous materials into the State of New Mexico to be disposed of in your state at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant?
2. Do you support the transport and disposal of hazardous, radioactive materials in your state?
3. Do you support the transport and disposal of hazardous, radioactive materials at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico?
4. Do you support the transport and disposal of hazardous, radioactive materials in your state from out of state?
5. Do you support the transport and disposal of hazardous, radioactive materials from out of state to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico?

Considering the anti-democratic stance of our present federal administration and the way it is being mirrored into all governments within the United States, I have no faith that this process of asking for public opinion through Public Notice No. 05-16 will result in decisions that reflect the interests or will of the people of New Mexico. When I refer to an undemocratic process by our federal government, all I have to do is think about the lies that led us into the war with Iraq. If a democratic process was sought on this issue, the Bush administration would not have resorted to the campaign of lies that have brought our country into a devastating and hopeless war. If I am uninformed on any of these issues, please reassure me. I welcome any information that would indicate that my understanding of the process which opened the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is incorrect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas B. French".

Thomas B. French
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